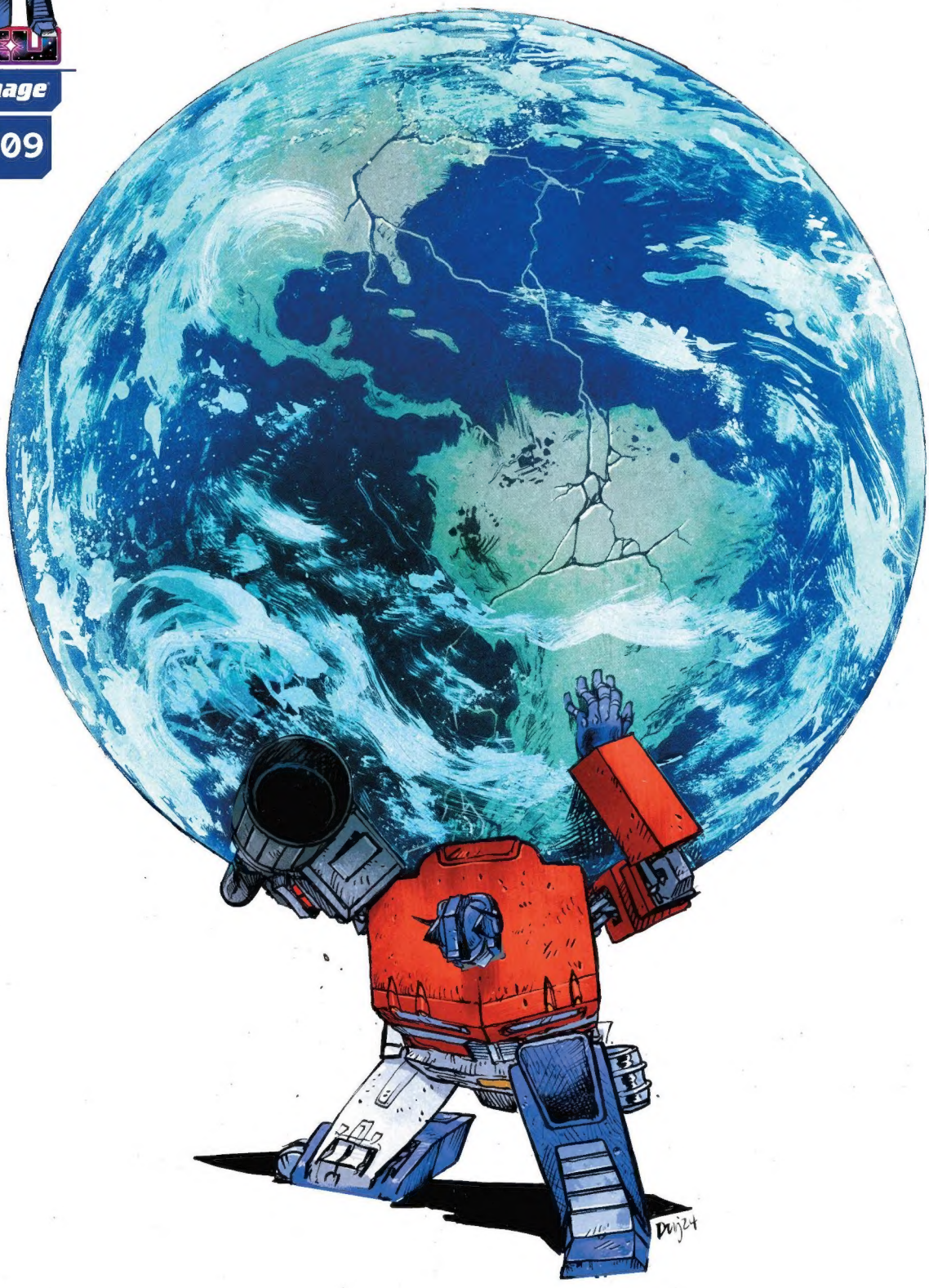
image

#09

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS



ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE NINE

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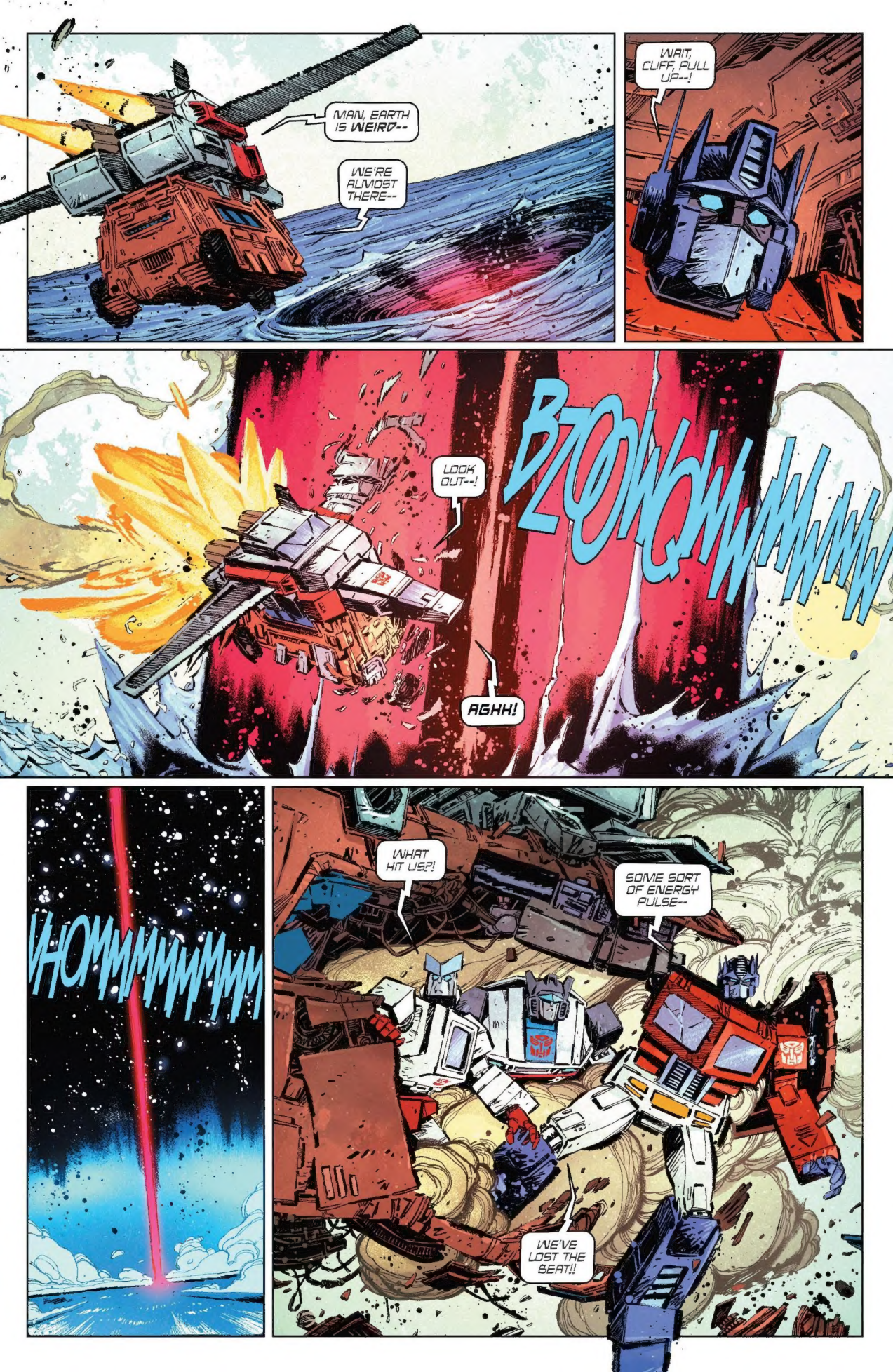
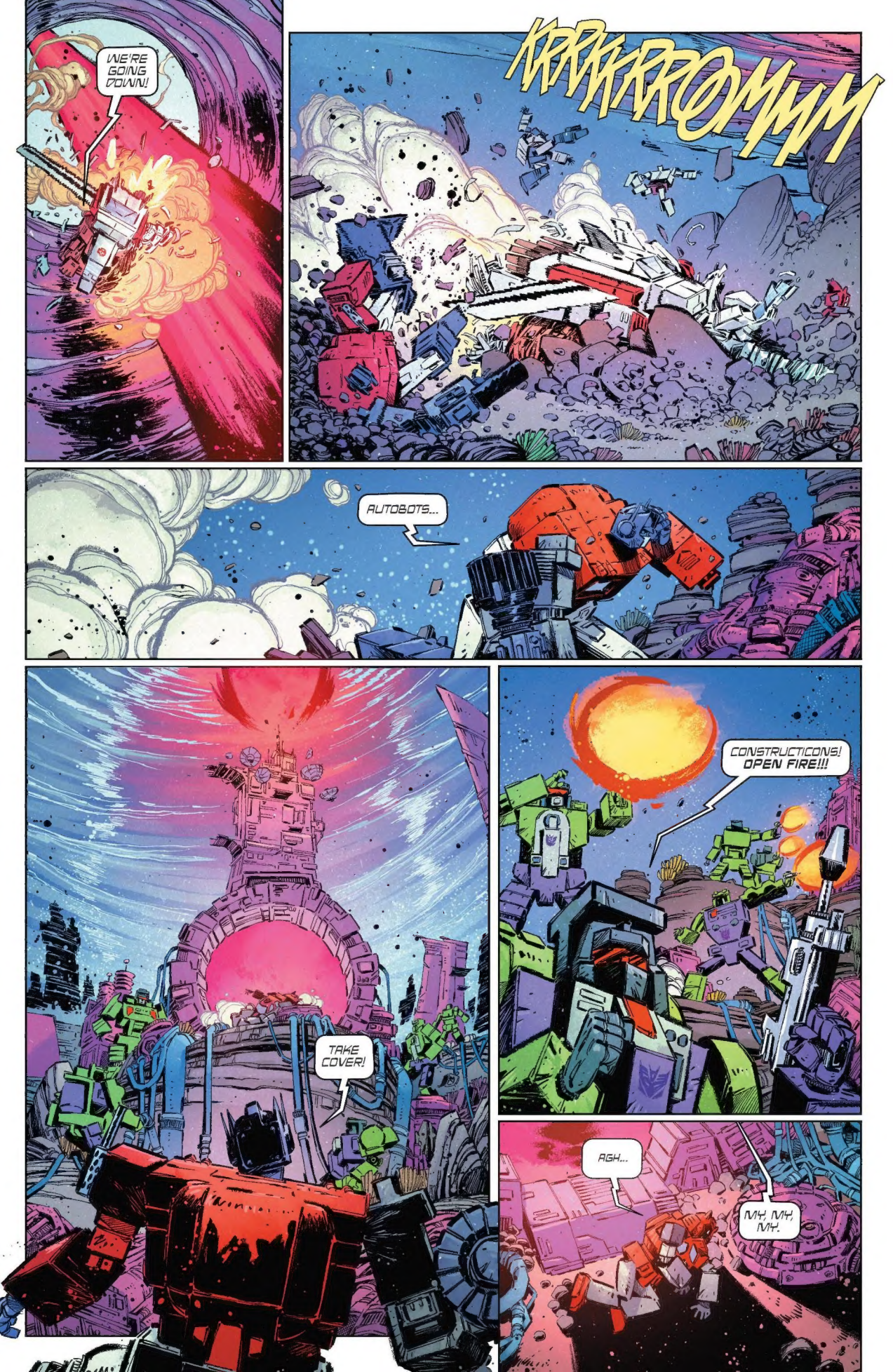
THE PACIFIC OCEAN.
MASSIVE ENERGON READINGS BELOW US, OPTIMUS!
BRING US IN CLOSER, CLIFFJUMPER!
HANG ON!
"SHOCKWAVE..."
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP US.
YOUR THANKS IS WELCOMED, SOUNDWAVE, BUT UNNECESSARY. MY LONG-LOST BROTHERS ARE NOW FOUND! AND LOOK AT THE ABUNDANCE OF RICHES YOU HAVE STUMBLED UPON! WE WILL SOON BE CELEBRATING IN THE HALLS OF MY STRONGHOLD.
CYBERTRON'S NEW DAWN IS SOON UPON US!
BREEEE
CHAK
AGREED, DEAR BROTHER.
BRAWWWWZZKKKK
LET US BEGIN.


MAN, EARTH IS WEIRD--
WE'RE ALMOST THERE--
WAIT, CUFF, PULL UP--!
LOOK OUT--!
BZOWOWWWWWW
AGHH!
VHOMMMMMMMM
WHAT HIT US?!
SOME SORT OF ENERGY PULSE--
WE'VE LOST THE BEAT!!

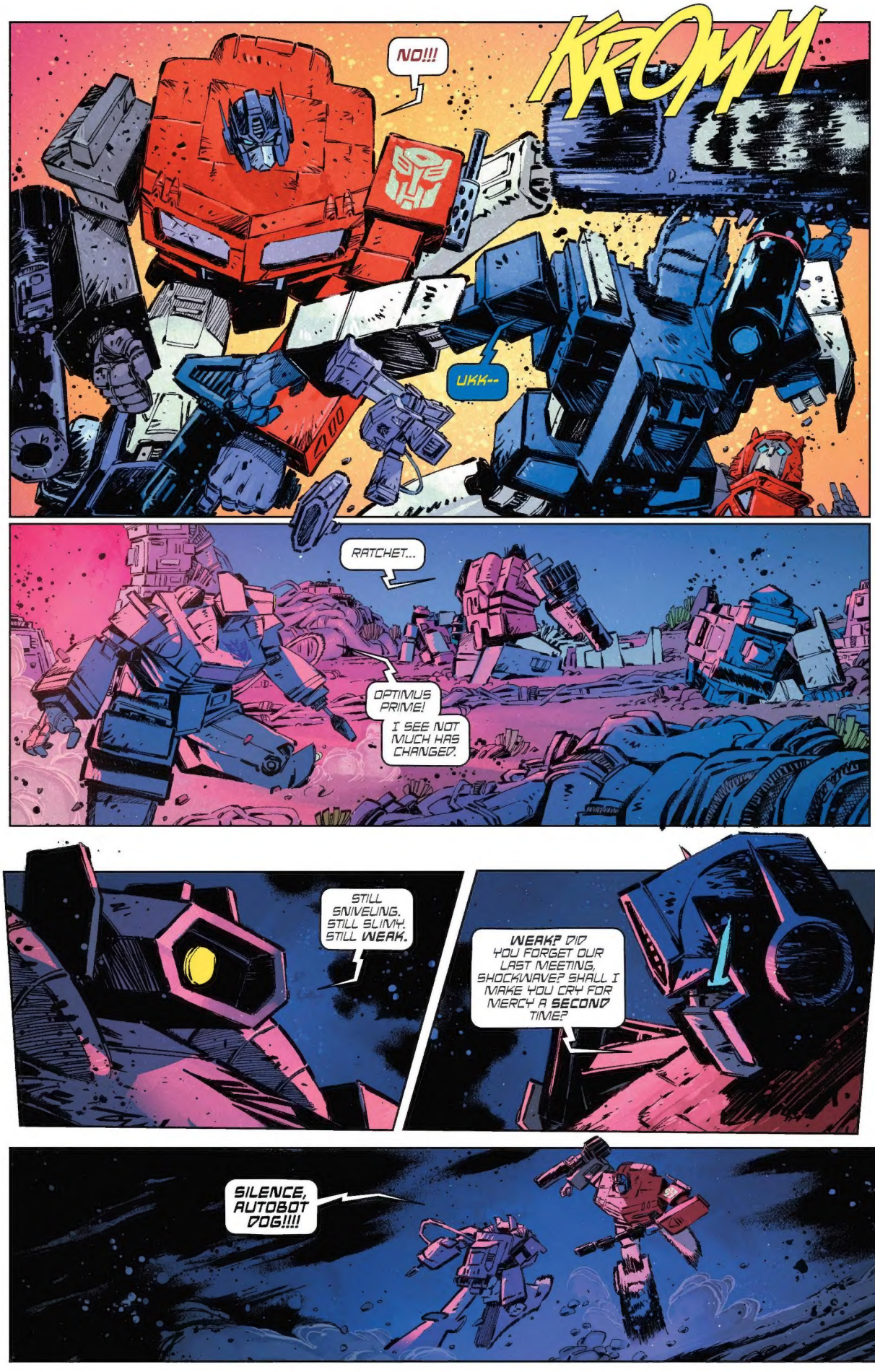

WE'RE GOING DOWN!
KRRKKRROMMM
AUTOBOTS...
TAKE COVER!
CONSTRUCTICONS! OPEN FIRE!!!
AGH...
MY, MY, MY.

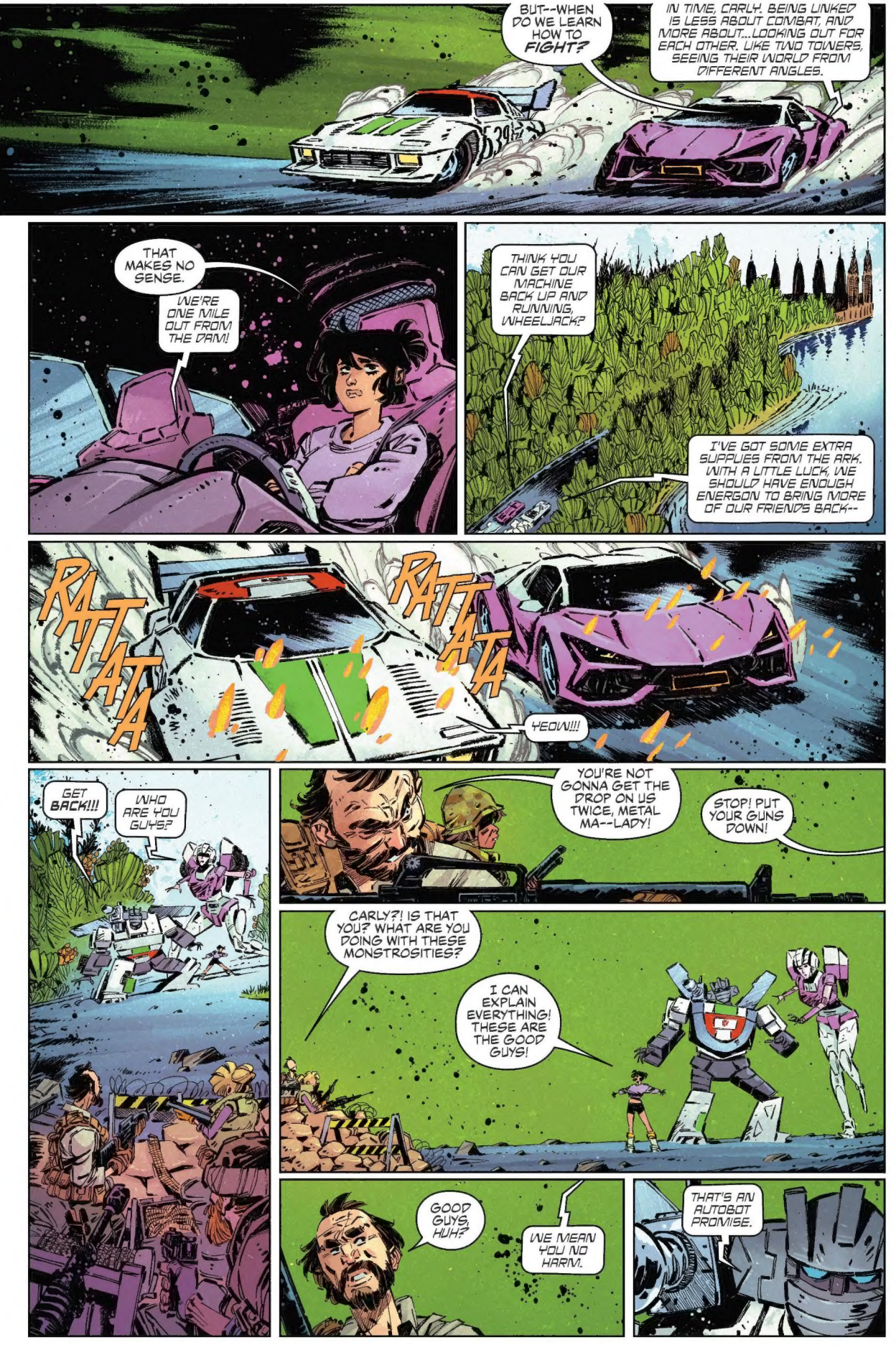
THE RABBLE ROUSERS ARE STILL FIGHTING BACK, I SEE.
VHOOOH WOHMMMMM
OH, NO...
WE DECEPTICONS HAVE WORK TO DO.

BZOW BZOW BZOW
YOU AUTOBOT SCUM ARE INTERRUPTING OUR GLORIOUS MISSION!
CHOOM
CHOOM
WE HAVE SUCCEEDED, BROTHER.
INDEED.
CHEE CHO
CHK
KIAK
CHEE
LET US BE DONE WITH THIS FOOLISHNESS.
CLIFF!

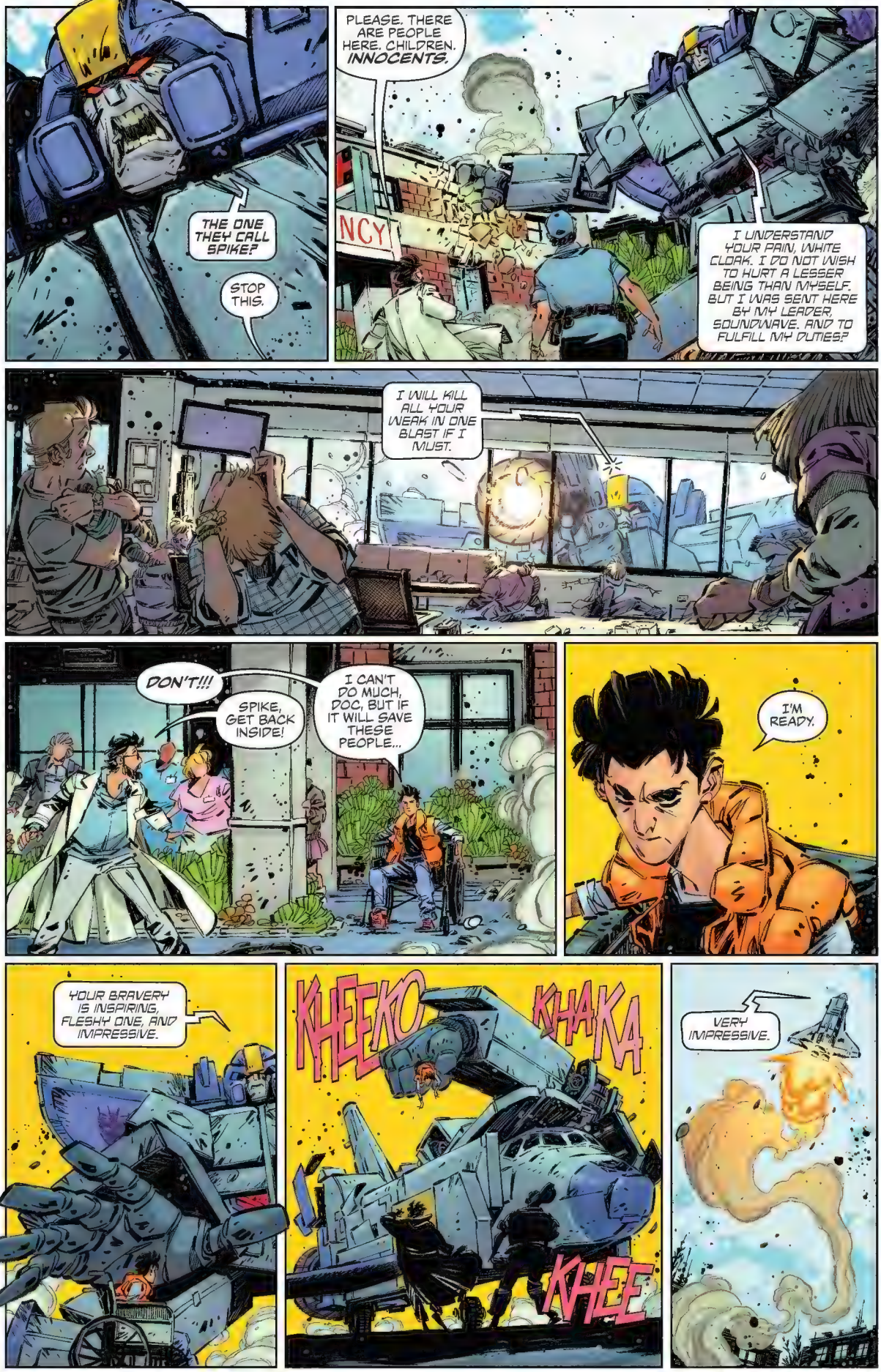
SKROWWW!

R-RATCHET?
-:HKKK:-
-:KKK:- CLIFF--
HELP--
RATCHET,
NO!
HAHAHA! THIS TICKLES ME PURPLE, SOUNDWAVE! ONE LESS RED DEMON TO--

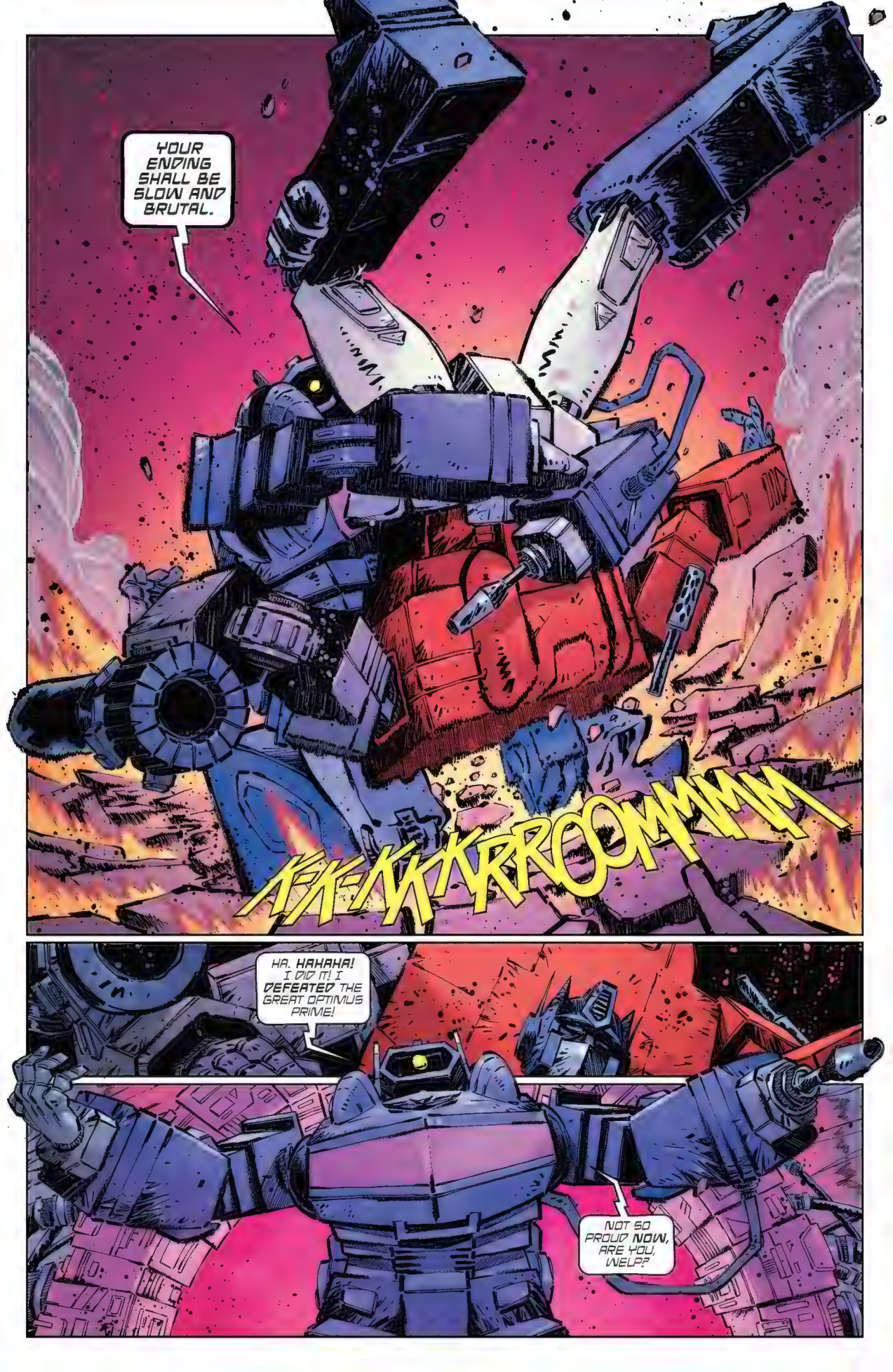

NO!!!
KROMM
UKK--
RATCHET...
OPTIMUS PRIME!
I SEE NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED.
STILL SNIVELING. STILL SLIMY. STILL WEAK.
WEAK? DID YOU FORGET OUR LAST MEETING, SHOCKWAVE? SHALL I MAKE YOU CRY FOR MERCY A SECOND TIME?
SILENCE, AUTOBOT DOG!!!!


BUT--WHEN DO WE LEARN HOW TO FIGHT?
IN TIME, CARLY. BEING LINKED IS LESS ABOUT COMBAT, AND MORE ABOUT...LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER. LIKE TWO TOWERS, SEEING THEIR WORLD FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES.
THAT MAKES NO SENSE.
WE'RE ONE MILE OUT FROM THE DAM!
THINK YOU CAN GET OUR MACHINE BACK UP AND RUNNING, WHEELJACK?
I'VE GOT SOME EXTRA SUPPLIES FROM THE ARK. WITH A LITTLE LUCK, WE SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH ENERGON TO BRING MORE OF OUR FRIENDS BACK--
RATTATATA
RATTATATA
YEOW!!!
GET BACK!!!
WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET THE DROP ON US TWICE, METAL MA--LADY!
STOP! PUT YOUR GUNS DOWN!
CARLY?! IS THAT YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THESE MONSTROSITIES?
I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING! THESE ARE THE GOOD GUYS!
GOOD GUYS, HUH?
WE MEAN YOU NO HARM.
THAT'S AN AUTOBOT PROMISE.

HEY, DOC. GOOD NEWS?
EMERGENCY
NOT GREAT, I'M AFRAID.
OH.
YOUR SPINE WAS GRAZED WHEN YOU WERE SHOT, SPIKE. THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN WORK ON, BUT...
JUST TELL ME.
AM I GONNA WALK AGAIN?
ONE THING I'VE LEARNED WHILE DOING THIS WORK, IS TO NEVER SAY NEVER. WE JUST FOUND OUT THERE ARE GIANT ROBOTS IN SPACE! ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN. DON'T GET DIS--
BEEP
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ANOTHER ONE, DOC! IT NEVER ENDS!
WHERE IS THE ONE WITH THE TALL HAIR?

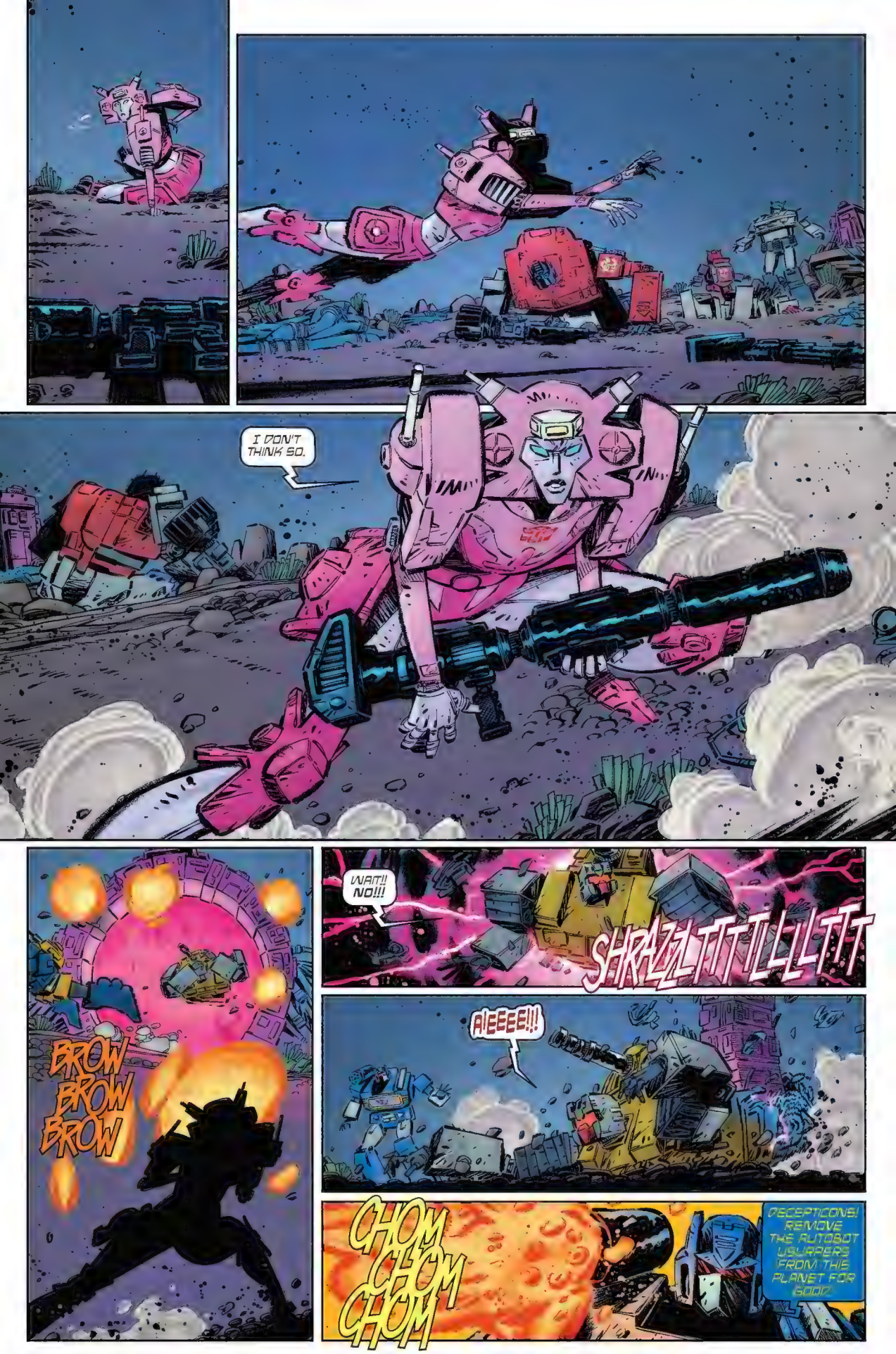

THE ONE THEY CALL SPIKE?
STOP THIS.
PLEASE. THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE. CHILDREN. INNOCENTS.
NCY
I UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN, WHITE CLOAK. I DO NOT WISH TO HURT A LESSER BEING THAN MYSELF. BUT I WAS SENT HERE BY MY LEADER, SOUNDWAVE. AND TO FULFILL MY DUTIES?
I WILL KILL ALL YOUR WEAK IN ONE BLAST IF I MUST.
DON'T!!!
SPIKE, GET BACK INSIDE!
I CAN'T DO MUCH, DOC, BUT IF IT WILL SAVE THESE PEOPLE...
I'M READY.
YOUR BRAVERY IS INSPIRING, FLESHY ONE, AND IMPRESSIVE.
KHEEKO
KHAKA
KHEE
VERY IMPRESSIVE.

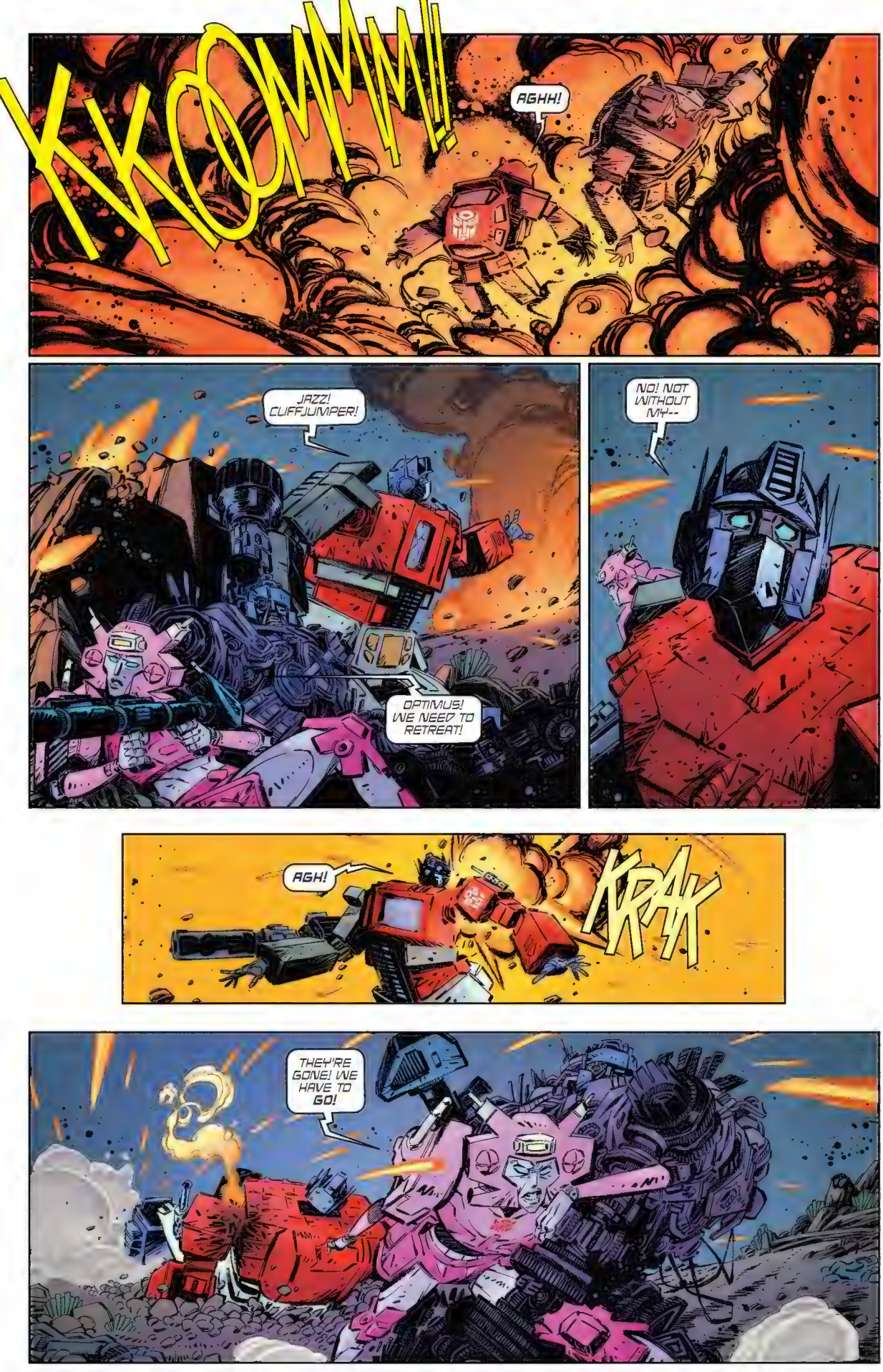
BOOM
HANG ON, OPTIM--
GYAGGHH!
THANK YOU FOR THE ASSIST, SCRAPPER!
FOR THE CAUSE, MY GENERAL!
CHOMMMM
YOU FOUGHT DIRTY LAST TIME, OPTIMUS. BUT I HAVE LEARNED MUCH SINCE THAT DAY.


YOUR ENDING SHALL BE SLOW AND BRUTAL.
KK-KKKRROOMMMM
HA. HAHAHA! I DID IT! I DEFEATED THE GREAT OPTIMUS PRIME!
NOT SO PROUD NOW, ARE YOU, WELP?

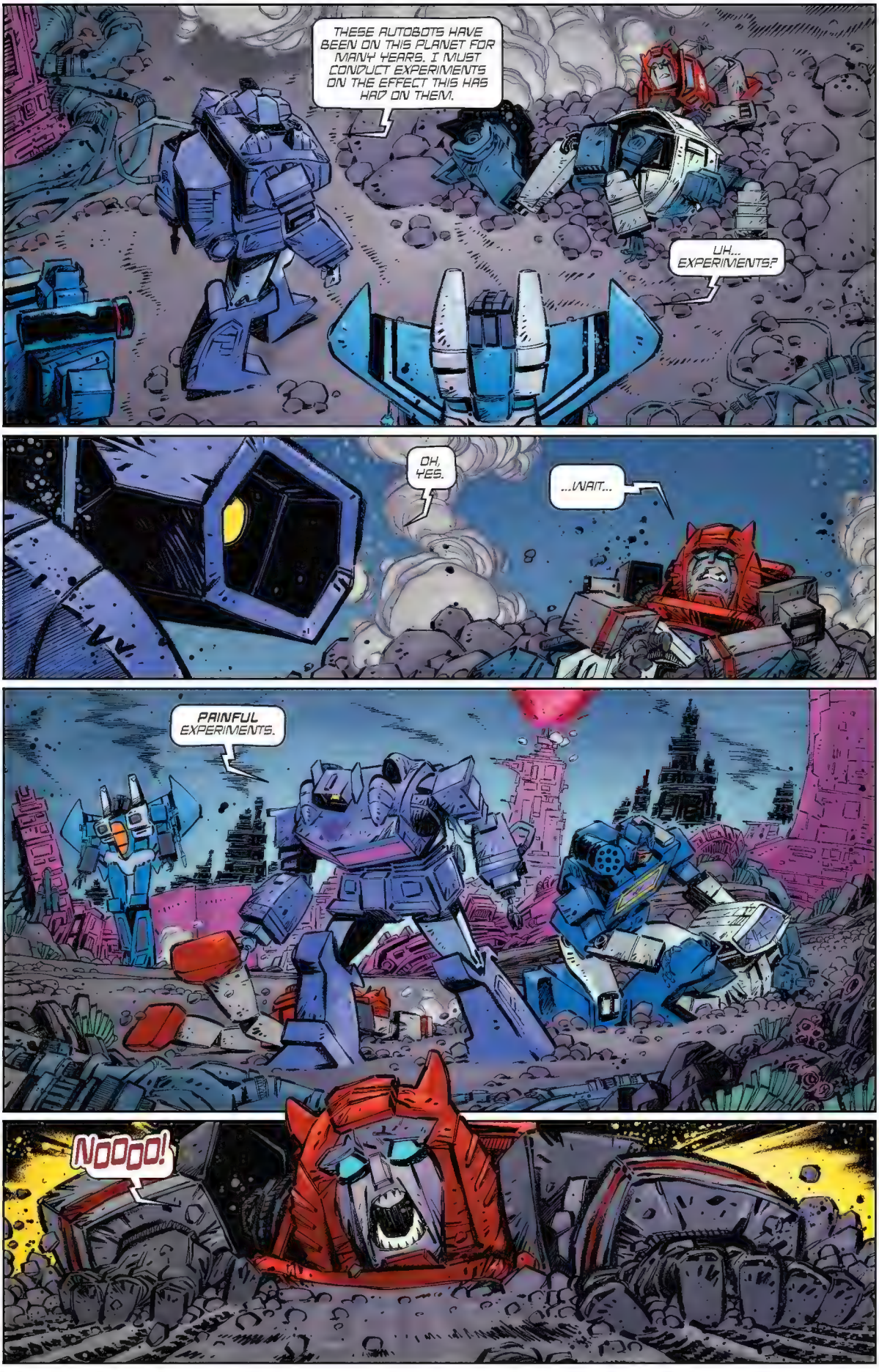
CYBERTRON.
SHE'S TRAPPED! TAKE HER!
I'VE TRIED EVERY HALLWAY! EVERY CORRIDOR! THERE'S NO ESCAPE, AND THEY'RE CLOSING IN FAST!
ZWAPP ZWAPP
FINALLY... THE END IS COMING.
DON'T SAY THAT!
GUYS! I GOT HER! SHE'S OVER HERE, SHE--
CHOM
WE KEEP FIGHTING. WE KEEP RUNNING.
I SEE A LIGHT! IT MIGHT BE A WAY OUT!
EUTA-- WAIT-- WE DON'T KNOW WHERE--
NO CHOICE, OLD FRIEND. SOMEDAY WE CAN DIE IN OIL AND GLORY. BUT I MADE A PROMISE TO YOU.
I INTEND TO KEEP IT!

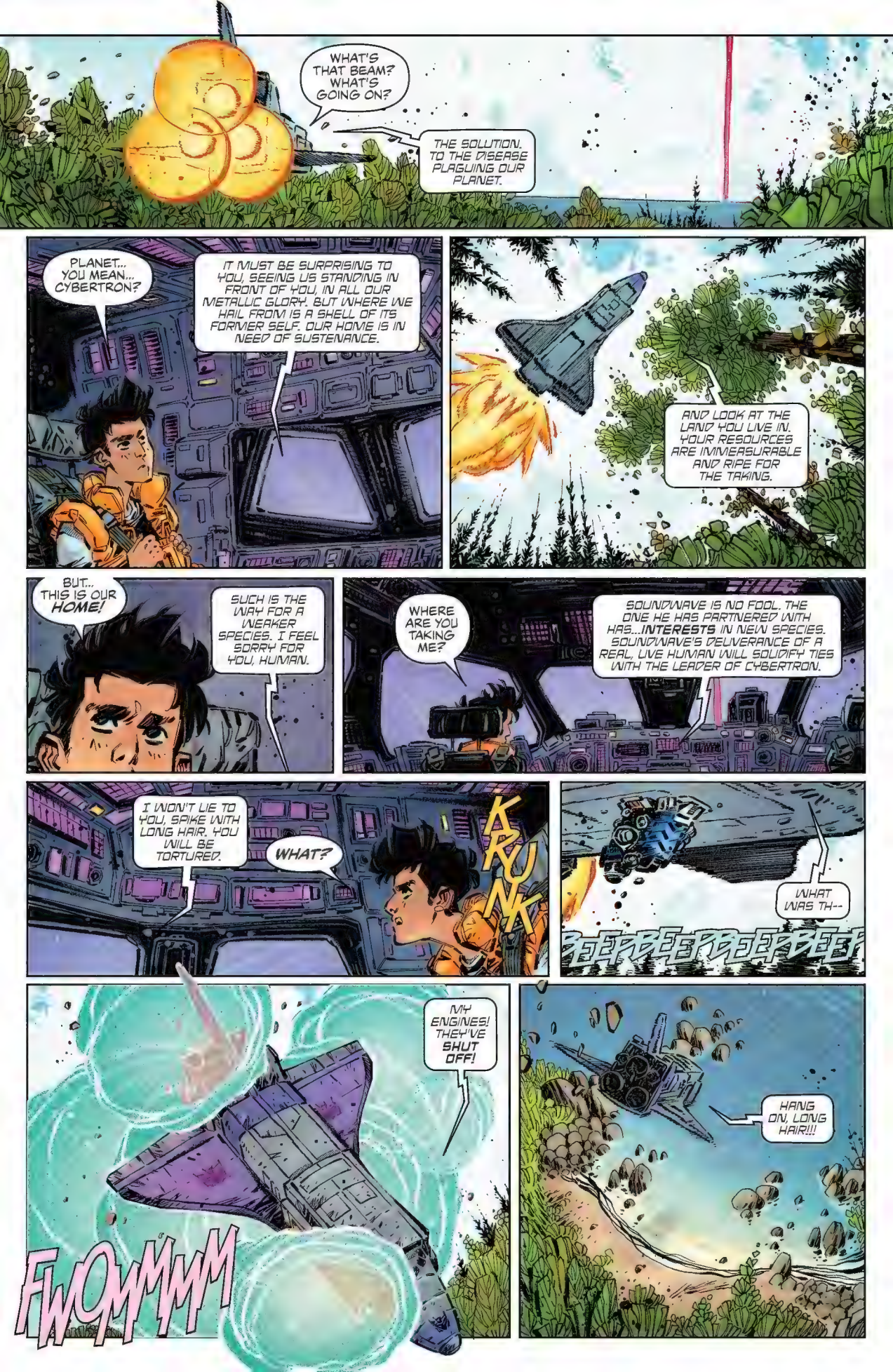
KRAKOOOM!!!
...OPTIMUS?!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE--
COMBATICONS!
MERGE TO FORM--

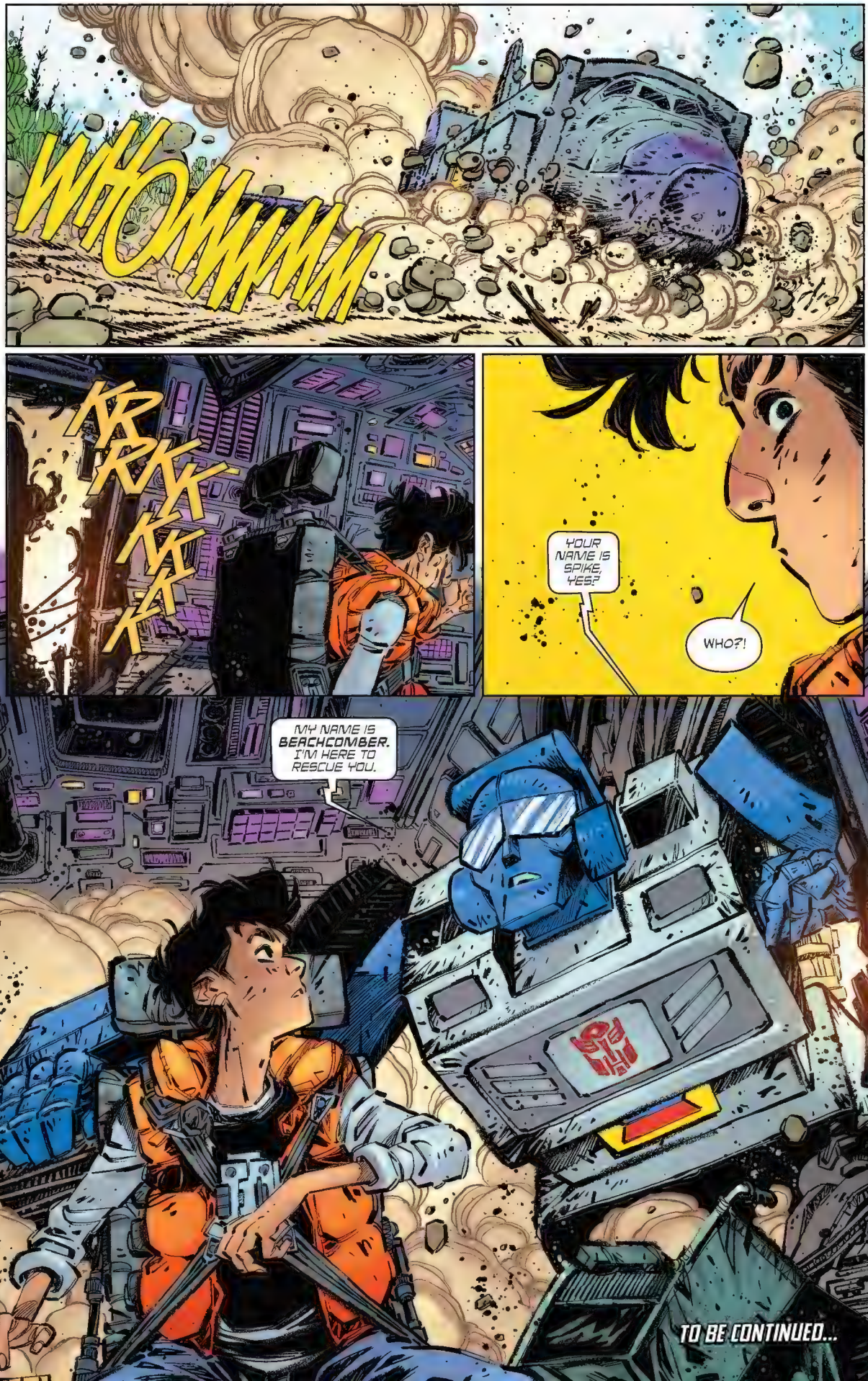

I DON'T THINK SO.
BROW BROW BROW
WAIT!! NO!!!
SHRAZZLTTTLLLTT
AIEEEE!!!
CHOM CHOM CHOM
DECEPTICONS! REMOVE THE AUTOBOT USURPERS FROM THIS PLANET FOR GOOD!


KKOOMMM!!
AGHH!
JAZZ! CLIFFJUMPER!
OPTIMUS! WE NEED TO RETREAT!
NO! NOT WITHOUT MY--
AGH!
KRAK
THEY'RE GONE! WE HAVE TO GO!

TRANSFORM--
CHEE CHA KHO KA
FWUMP
CHOOM
AND ROLL OUT!
DECEPTICONS PREPARE TO GIVE CH--
NO, SOUNDWAVE.
LET THEM GO. WE MUST FOCUS ON REPAIRING THE LINK BETWEEN OUR TWO WORLDS. THE AUTOBOTS ARE NOW MERE ANTS IN RELATION TO OUR PLAN.
OP... OPTIMUS...?
OH, HO! LOOK AT THESE GIFTS FROM PRIMUS!


THESE AUTOBOTS HAVE BEEN ON THIS PLANET FOR MANY YEARS. I MUST CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS ON THE EFFECT THIS HAS HAD ON THEM.
UH... EXPERIMENTS?
OH, YES.
...WAIT...
PAINFUL EXPERIMENTS.
NOOOO!


WHAT'S THAT BEAM? WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE SOLUTION. TO THE DISEASE PLAGUING OUR PLANET.
PLANET... YOU MEAN... CYBERTRON?
IT MUST BE SURPRISING TO YOU, SEEING US STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU, IN ALL OUR METALLIC GLORY. BUT WHERE WE HAIL FROM IS A SHELL OF ITS FORMER SELF. OUR HOME IS IN NEED OF SUSTENANCE.
AND LOOK AT THE LAND YOU LIVE IN. YOUR RESOURCES ARE IMMEASURABLE AND RIPE FOR THE TAKING.
BUT... THIS IS OUR HOME!
SUCH IS THE WAY FOR A WEAKER SPECIES. I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, HUMAN.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
SOUNDWAVE IS NO FOOL. THE ONE HE HAS PARTNERED WITH HAS...INTERESTS IN NEW SPECIES. SOUNDWAVE'S DELIVERANCE OF A REAL, LIVE HUMAN WILL SOLIDIFY TIES WITH THE LEADER OF CYBERTRON.
I WON'T LIE TO YOU, SPIKE WITH LONG HAIR. YOU WILL BE TORTURED.
WHAT?
KRUNK
WHAT WAS TH--
BEEPBEEPBEEPBEEP
MY ENGINES! THEY'VE SHUT OFF!
FWOMMMM
HANG ON, LONG HAIR!!!


WHOMMM
KRKKKK
YOUR NAME IS SPIKE, YES?
WHO?!
MY NAME IS BEACHCOMBER. I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU.
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Welcome back to another thrilling issue of TRANSFORMERS and you might want to pick your jaw up off the floor! Daniel, Jorge, Mike and Rus have delivered another knockout! I'm your editor and co-host, Ben, and I'm joined as always by the Sultan of Suplex himself, Daniel Warren Johnson!

I think you mean SULTAN OF THE SUPLEX, Ben! Let's get my title(s) straight! Can you believe this issue? We went all out and I think it shows! I do want to shout out Jorge here who DID NOT BAT AN EYE at Shockwave giving Optimus a tombstone piledriver. I can't believe I just typed out that sentence. LIFE IS GOOD.

Hi! My name is Grim. I've loved Transformers ever since I was young and I'm loving this new rendition of the amazing series. I was wondering if any of the comics will have some more details and memories from Cybertron. I love seeing that kind of stuff because it makes wars and conflict seem so much more real and jarring. I would also love to see Optimus Prime when he was Orion Pax. I love the art style of these comics so much and I feel like it would work so well with the world design of Cybertron. I always love seeing more lore and background on characters I know and love, so keep up the great work with your amazing team!

I agree completely, Grim. Cybertron is an awesome place to explore, and there's some real storytelling gold that can happen there. We've got a lot of places to get to and even more characters to take care of, but trust me, it's in my mind and on the horizon.

Skybound Team,

I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for the incredible work you've done on the first story arc of your TRANSFORMERS series. The writing and artwork have both been stellar, but what stands out most is your characterization of Optimus Prime. The warmth that you convey in Prime's dialogue conveys a selflessness that is so integral to the character. Other recent depictions of Optimus have underemphasized this quality to their great detriment, but you have an inherent understanding of what makes Optimus the greatest of all heroes. The key to Optimus is that he'd sacrifice himself in an instant to save a life… any life. He is strong and tough, but exceedingly gentle. In six issues, you've won me over with your mastery of the character. I can hear Peter Cullen's voice when reading Optimus Prime's dialogue in your books, which is perhaps the ultimate seal of quality. Keep up the amazing work, and thanks for creating something so special for Transformers fans!

Best Regards,
Steven Kilper

Thank you very much, Steven! What can I say? I love Optimus Prime. He's been in my life almost since the beginning and it might be weird to say, but it's like I know him. So I just tried to honestly put how this character is in my mind onto the pages you've been reading. All that to say, I want to keep pushing the character into places that we haven't seen yet, all while holding on to that gentle center. More to come!

Hello! I wish you are all doing well.

I just finished reading #6 and I loved it. I just realized, I think I'm in for the monthly: What will Optimus do to Starscream? Loving those crazy but badass moments.

I'm loving it all but most of all, Soundwave. I can't wait to see what will happen on the next issue and if he will change sides. Also, please give Ravage back to him.

Lastly, will we see pre-war Cybertron lifestyle? It would be nice to see how it connects with the rest of the EU and the motives of the war.

"Keep reading" is all I will say on that!

Thank you for always delivering the best!
Adriana, from the lovely island of Puerto Rico

Thank you for reading, Adriana! I hope you're as pleased with Soundwave's development in this second arc as I am. Soundwave was always one of my favorite characters as a kid and I feel like the team are really developing him in an interesting, and brutal, way…

Ravage has had a rough go, it's true. But it just goes to show just how much fun I'm having writing Soundwave. He's so much more subtle than Megatron and Starscream, and that makes for

challenging but rewarding moments that I hope I've been able to carve out, issue by issue. Thank you for your letter!

Dear Skybound team,

I'd like to say that this new comic series has given me a spark of joy for Transformers media that I have not had in a very long time. Every panel of this series has me on the edge of my seat waiting to find out what happens next. I think the decision to go a more adult route with the content of this series has made it so enjoyable to read as someone who grew up watching the original show! Seeing Sparky walk into the matrix and sacrifice himself was super emotional, I didn't think I could get so attached to a human character in a comic about giant robots. Thank you all for the wonderful job you're doing creating these stories and continuing the legacy of Transformers.

Till all are one!
TJ

Thank you, TJ! I've always felt that Transformers stories need some sort of human element just to help even out the stakes. While it is SUPER FUN to just have robots beating on each other, I've found that humanity is a wonderful foil to show just how emotional and relatable Cybertronians can also be.

Hi,

I'm Chris Denmead from Framingham MA TF fan since 1984. Wow what a series… at issue 6 right now and that two page spread of Optimus punching Devastator over a cliff into Starscream was amazing! The brutality of it all omg.

DWJ art is insane the writing incredible…I am buying them all!

YOU'RE TOO KIND!!!!

Questions:

1. Will we see Six Shot or The Dino Bots or Hotrod?
2. What was your favorite toy growing up?
3. Will the price remain $3.99 too many comics are hitting $5.00 and I can't afford that until next time!

'Till All are one,
Chris Denmead

Thanks for the lifetime of passion and interest, Chris. That entire Devastator battle was brilliantly executed by Daniel and Mike! A few answers:

1. **Did you check out the Energon Universe Special? Hot Rod was featured in there!**
2. **Jetfire!**
3. **No plans to change the price!**

Chris! I'll answer a few that pertain to me!

1. ***CAN'T SAY BUT I WISH I COULD***
2. ***ORIGINAL OPTIMUS PRIME FIGURE OBVS (I also loved all the Star Wars action fleet vehicles)***

Also, shout to FRAMINGHAM, MA! Notice the name of Spike's town? I grew up in Framingham, and I owe a lot to its public library. They had the best collection of comics and manga in the 90's, way before any other library had anything of the sort. I also remember hanging out at BEDROCK COMICS, picking up whatever old TF Marvel comics they had in their dollar bins! Great store! Great town! Go Sox!

Til next month!
-DWJ

Thanks again, everyone! Keep those letters coming and be sure to check out this month's Energon Universe debuts of SCARLETT and DESTRO!

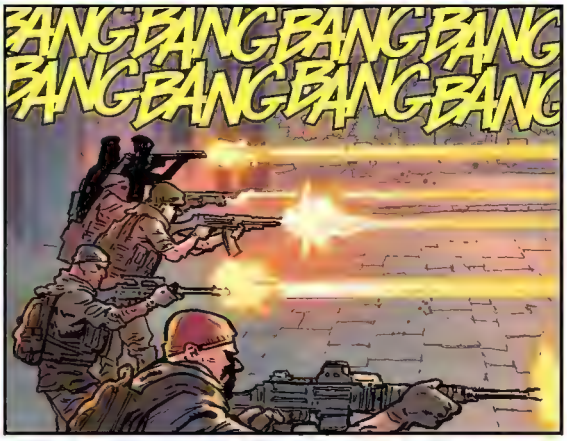
-Ben

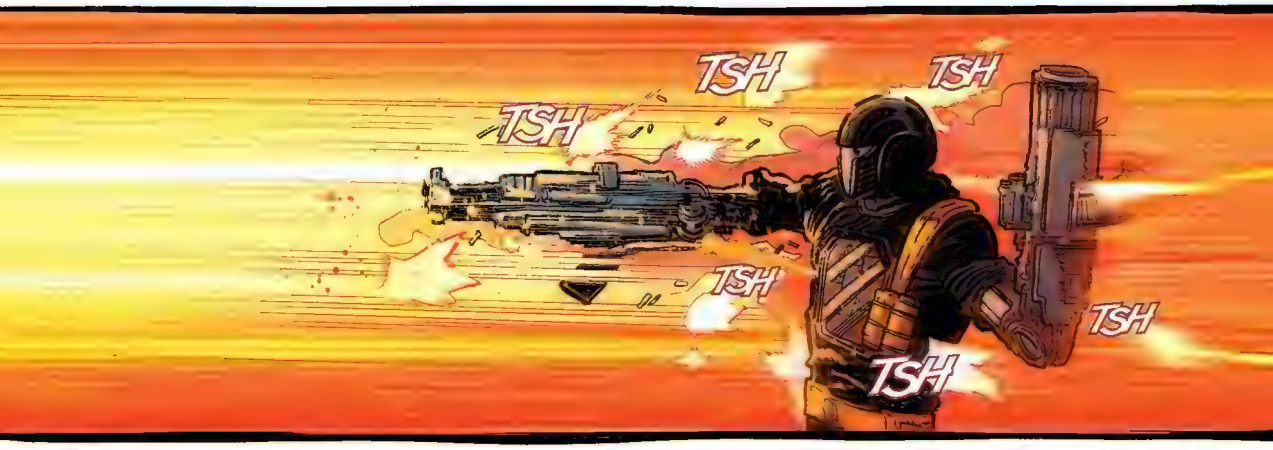
Also, a final note—on page 5 of this story, we showed the epic moment of Shockwave changing into a gun for Soundwave to use to kill Cliffjumper and he used what we call "Mass Conversion." Transformers like Soundwave/Shockwave are genetically endowed with the ability to convert not simply their bodies, but their entire molecular structure. This ability, not under their conscious control, only activates when they shift into their alt-mode, rearranging their atoms according to a predetermined schematic.

THE REVOLUTION IS CANCELLED, I'M AFRAID, BOYS AND GIRLS--ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR VASTLY INFERIOR FIREPOWER.
UH, WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

BATTLE ANDROID TROOPER
[ADVANCED PROTOTYPE]
HEAT SIGNATURE TARGETING SYSTEM
MODULAR GATLING ARM CANNON
(SUBSTITUTABLE)
LOGIC CIRCUITRY
(PROTOTYPE)

CH-CHK


BANG BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG BANG


TSH
TSH
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TSH
TSH

HOW IS IT STILL STANDING?
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
OH, GOD! UP THERE...

"...THERE ARE MORE INCOMING!"

I TOLD THEM TO SHOOT TWO OR THREE OF THEM.
BOYS WILL BE BOYS, I SUPPOSE.
FALL BACK! BACK TO THE PALACE!
WE'RE OVERRUN! THEY AREN'T HUMAN! THEY'RE MACHINES!
IT--IT CAN'T BE HIM. GET ME OUT OF HERE!
IT'S TOO LATE.
THEY HAVE BREACHED IT! THE PALACE IS BEING LIBERATED!
SUPPORT THE EMANCIPATORS!
TEAR DOWN THE THRONE OF POWER!
IT... IT IS HIM. GET ME A DIRECT LINE.

DARKLONIA IS FREE!
PEACE
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
WE DESERVE PEACE
LAIRD DESTRO.
THE DARKLONIAN PEOPLE ACCEPT YOUR RESIGNATION, PRIME MINISTER.

THE COBRA THREAT CONTINUES

DESTRO

Superstar writer **DAN WATTERS** (*Universal Monsters: Creature From the Black Lagoon Lives!*) and acclaimed artist **ANDREI BRESSAN** (*Dark Ride*) change the balance of power in the Energon Universe forever!

ON SALE JUNE 19, 2024

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WELCOME TO THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

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